

REMARKS***Claim Amendments***

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.114, Applicant hereby submits the following remarks in support of the patentability of claims 18-23, 27-33, 35-42, and 68-74. Entry of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

During prosecution of the above application, the Examiner issued a final Office Action dated July 17, 2008. The Office Action noted that claims 18-23, 27-33, 35-42, 44 and 68-74 were pending in this application. Claim 18 has been amended herein. Claim 72 has been canceled. No claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 18-23, 27-33, 35-42, 44, 68-71 and 73-74 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration of the claim rejections is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 18-21, 23, 27, 32-40, 69 and 71-73 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Clark (U.S. Patent No. 3,819,034) is respectfully requested. Specifically, independent claim 18 has been amended to clarify the relationship of the working end and the handle and recites "the working end comprises a portion which is configured to perform a cleaning function and another portion attached to the first end of the handle". Clark does not teach or suggest a working end comprising a portion which is configured to perform a cleaning function and another portion attached to the first end of the handle. Further, Clark does not teach or suggest implements having a handle and working end with this arrangement in which a handle-attachment member is also releasably securable to the second end of the handle. The proposed interpretation of male thread (11) of Clark as a "working end" and the broom head (15) as a "handle-attachment member" simply does not

follow the claim language as set forth in independent claim 1. The male thread (11) of Clark does not have a portion configured to perform a cleaning function and another portion attached to the first end of the handle. Additionally, the interpretation of Clark by the Examiner does not provide a handle-attachment member releasably securable to the second end of the handle under the arrangement set forth in claim 18. Accordingly, independent claim 18 is allowable over Clark. Claims 18-21, 23, 27, 32-40, 69, 71 and 73 which depend from allowable independent claim 18 are therefore, also in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 22, 28, 44 and 74 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of Michelson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,902,060) is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully reiterates the remarks set forth above regarding independent claim 18 from which claims 22, 28, 44 and 74 depend. Accordingly, claims 22, 28, 44 and 74 are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 24, 29 and 68 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of Ogier (U.S. Patent No. 3,600,740) is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully reiterates the remarks set forth above regarding independent claim 18 from which claims 24, 29 and 68 depend. Accordingly, claims 24, 29 and 68 are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 30, 31, 42, 43 and 70 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of Carlson (U.S. Patent No. 3,359,929) is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully reiterates the remarks set forth above regarding independent claim 18 from which claims 30, 31, 42, 43 and 70 depend. Accordingly, claims 30, 31, 42, 43 and 70 are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark is respectfully requested. Applicant reiterates the remarks set forth above regarding independent claim 18 from which claim 41 depends. Accordingly, claim 41 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the aforesaid, reconsideration and allowance of all claims at issue are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 7, 2009

By: Gary R. Gillen
Gary R. Gillen
Registration No. 35,157

Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon, LLP
205 W. Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Phone: (312) 201-2000
Fax: (312) 201-2555